

CLAIMS

1. A lymph node detecting apparatus comprising:

an excitation light source, illuminating excitation light onto a living body observation portion that includes a lymph node near a tumor into which a fluorescent dye that emits fluorescence of a predetermined wavelength has been injected in advance;

an optical filter, transmitting a fluorescence image generated from the living body observation portion;

an image pickup means, picking up the fluorescence image transmitted through the optical filter;

an adjusting means, adjusting at least one of a luminance and a contrast of an observation image output from the image pickup means; and

an image displaying means; displaying the observation image, adjusted by the adjusting means, as an image for detecting the lymph node.

2. The lymph node detecting apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the image pickup means is integral with the excitation light source.

3. The lymph node detecting apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the optical filter transmits the fluorescence image and transmits, at a predetermined light intensity, a reflection image from the living body observation portion illuminated by the excitation light.

4. The lymph node detecting apparatus according to any of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the image displaying means is mountable onto a head portion of an observer.

5. The lymph node detecting apparatus according to any of Claims 1 to 4, further comprising an image recording means, recording the observation image adjusted by the adjusting means.

5 6. The lymph node detecting apparatus according to any of Claims 1 to 5, further comprising: a light guide means for guiding the excitation light from the excitation light source to the living body observation portion; and an image guide means for guiding the fluorescence image from the living body observation portion to the image pickup means; and being arranged as an endoscopic apparatus.